

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
12 December 2002 (12.12.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 02/098520 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A63B 69/20**

(21) International Application Number: PCT/IT01/00293

(22) International Filing Date: 7 June 2001 (07.06.2001)

(25) Filing Language: Italian

(26) Publication Language: English

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **REAL GLOBE S.R.L.** [IT/IT]; Largo Leopardi 14/A, I-43036 Fidenza (IT).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **TRIANI, Aldo** [IT/IT]; Largo Leopardi 14/A, I-43036 Fidenza (IT).

(74) Agents: **CONCONE, Emanuele** et al.; Società Italiana Brevetti S.p.A., Via Carducci, 8, I-20123 Milano (IT).

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

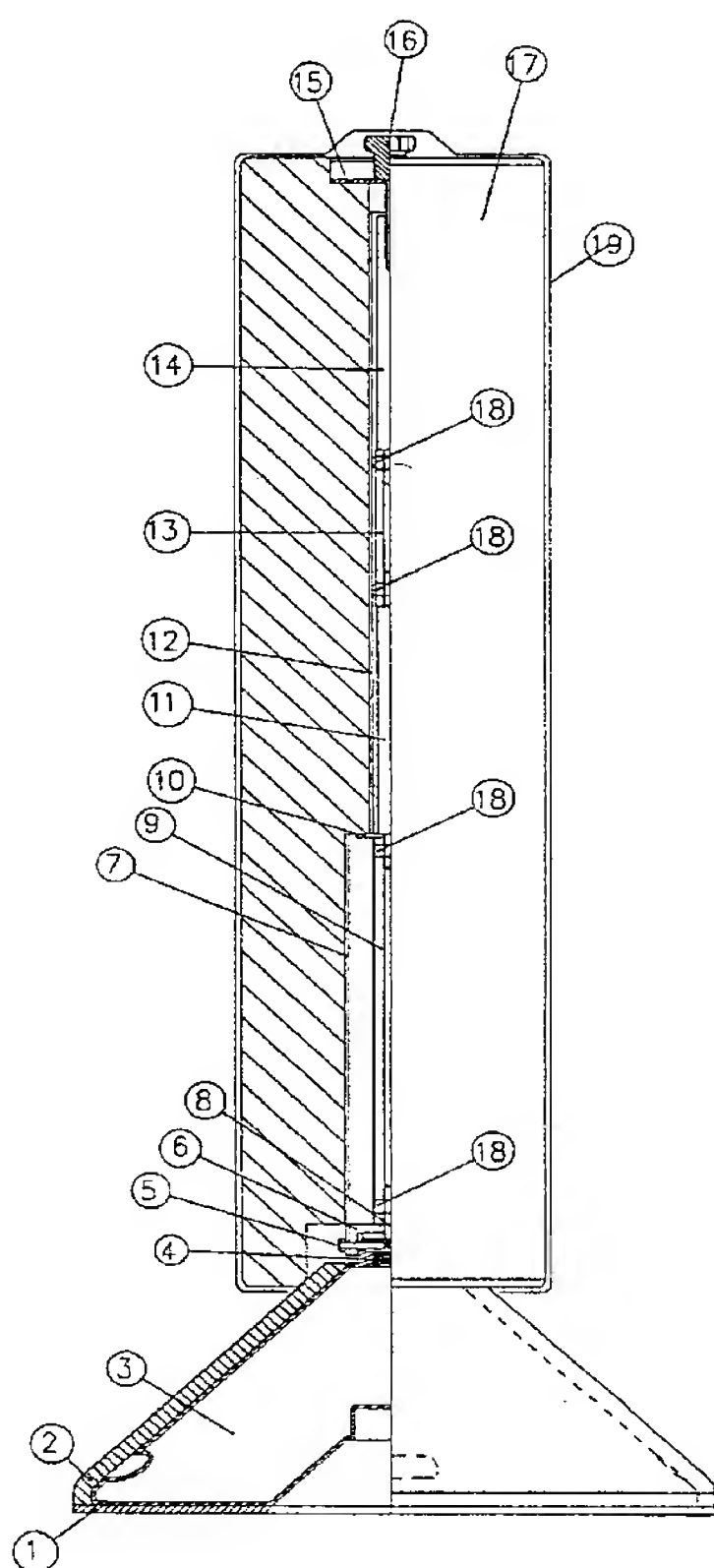
(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: KICK BOXING TRAINING BAG WITH FLEXIBLE AND DISMOUNTABLE SUPPORTING STRUCTURE



(57) Abstract: A kick boxing training bag includes a foam rubber padding (17) slipped onto a supporting structure provided with a hollow base (3) which can be filled with ballast, the supporting structure including two hollow cylindrical rubber springs (9, 13) connected by a rigid rod (11). The elastically flexible structure prevents any trauma to the athlete, provides greater realism of the training which can be much faster and rhythmic, can take even very strong blows without risking the fall of the bag and allows to easily make devices with different elastic responses according to the needs by changing the flexibility of the springs. Moreover, the base (3) is separable and stackable to facilitate the storage of a plurality of bags.



For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

KICK BOXING TRAINING BAG WITH FLEXIBLE AND DISMOUNTABLE SUPPORTING STRUCTURE

5 The present invention relates to kick boxe training devices, and in particular to a training bag provided with a flexible and dismountable supporting structure.

 It is known that in kick boxe blows are brought not only with the fists but also with feet and knees, whereby the power with which the training bag is hit may be greater than that usually found in conventional boxe. However, the training devices presently available do not take into account such a difference between
10 these two types of boxe and are substantially similar to conventional long hanging bags in use since long ago.

 In practice, a prior art bag simply consists of a foam rubber padding slipped from above onto a rigid supporting base, which has a hollow structure to be filled with ballast material (e.g. water, sand). This base is usually shaped as a circular
15 cylinder, with a larger diameter in the lower portion and a smaller diameter in the upper portion on which the padding is slipped. Such a simple structure though being advantageously cheap however has several drawbacks which make its use quite problematic.

 A first group of drawbacks stems from the rigidity of the structure, whereby
20 the athlete must necessarily wear protective items (gloves, shoes, etc.), and despite that still undergoes microtraumas. Moreover, the athlete is being trained with a device which is unrealistic, in that an opponent in a fight certainly does not take the blows without moving a bit. Furthermore, if the device is hit too strongly it may fall and increasing the ballast to prevent its fall would make it extremely difficult to
25 be moved.

 A second type of drawback stems from the integral structure which makes it bulky and difficult to handle. In fact, when you need to store a plurality of prior art devices it is required to have an adequate room, in that they can not be stacked and are too heavy to be raised and hung on a wall.

30 Still another drawback comes from the fact that the cylindrical base is dangerous in case a kick is brought too low with respect to the position of the foam rubber padding. In fact it may happen that the athlete hits the base by mistake

- 2 -

bumping against a rigid vertical wall which can cause a serious trauma to the foot.

Therefore the object of the present invention is to provide a device which is free from the above-mentioned drawbacks. This object is achieved by means of a training bag whose supporting structure includes at least two flexible members.

5 Other advantageous features of the present device are disclosed in the dependent claims.

A first fundamental advantage of the present device is that of preventing any trauma to the athlete, who can even do without the protective items.

10 Another advantage stemming from the flexibility of the structure is the greater realism of the training which can be much faster and rhythmic. Moreover the flexible structure can take even very strong blows without risking the fall of the device, thanks to the effect of energy dissipation due to the internal friction between the elements of the device.

15 Still another advantage of such a flexible structure is that it is easy to make devices with different elastic response according to the needs. For example, it is possible to calculate the flexibility according to the power of the athlete to have models for man, woman and child.

20 A further advantage of the present device in its preferred embodiment is that of allowing the separation of the ballasted base from the light upper portion. In this way it is possible to stack the bases, properly shaped, and to house in wall racks the upper portions so as to store several devices in a very small space.

25 Also the fact of having a conical base provided with a protective cover results in the advantage of preventing traumas to the athlete's foot in the case of a low kick, since the padded and inclined plane deadens the blow and deviates it upward in the direction of the real bag.

Further advantages and characteristics of the training bag according to the present invention will be clear to those skilled in the art from the following detailed description of an embodiment thereof, with reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

30 Fig.1 is a semisectional vertical view of a device according to the invention;

Fig.2 is a semisectional vertical view of the elements which make up the device base;

- 3 -

Fig.3 is a view of the elements for the connection to the base and the support in the lower portion of the device;

Fig.4 is a view of the elements for the support in the upper portion and the locking at the top of the device;

5 Fig.5 is a semisectional vertical view of the foam rubber padding which is slipped onto the supporting structure; and

Fig.6 is a semisectional vertical view showing how the bases can be stacked for storage.

10 With reference to said figures, and in particular to fig.2, there is seen that the base of the present device consists of a hollow conical structure 3 externally covered by a padding 2 and with an antislip mat 1 glued to its bottom. The base is closed by a disappearing top plug 4, i.e. a plug provided with an external thread and a polygonal socket for driving it into a corresponding threaded bore at the vertex of the cone.

15 To facilitate the stacking of the bases, illustrated in fig.6, structure 3 has recesses which make it easier to grab it for raising and the bottom side of the hollow structure 3 is shaped with a concave profile mating with the top portion of the structure itself. Furthermore mat 1 has a central hole at that profile.

20 In fig.3 there are illustrated the elements for removably connecting to the base the internal structure which holds the foam rubber padding. Said connection is achieved by means of a threaded stud 8 shaped as an inverted T on which there is slipped a small cylinder 6 open at the bottom, provided with a central vertical hole for the passage of stud 8 and with a horizontal hole for the passage of a bolt 5. In practice, as shown in fig.1, the small cylinder 6 with stud 8 therein is slipped onto
25 the top of the conical base 3 where, above plug 4, there is formed a horizontal hole corresponding to the hole in cylinder 6 which is thus blocked through bolt 5. In this way, stud 8 is enclosed between bolt 5 and cylinder 6 and the latter is restrained to the base.

30 On stud 8 projecting through cylinder 6 there is secured a first hollow cylindrical rubber spring 9 which, in the illustrated example, is 500 mm high and has a wall 13 mm thick. The securing of spring 9 onto stud 8 is achieved by means of a hose clip 18, and spring 9 is also protected by a tube 7 of rubber and steel.

- 4 -

More specifically, tube 7 has a wall 4 mm thick and extends in height for 600 mm completely covering spring 9 and cylinder 6, in fact it is provided at the bottom end with a horizontal hole for the passage of bolt 5.

It should be noted that tube 7 has an inner diameter much larger than the outer diameter of spring 9 so as to leave a wide play between said two members. Moreover, at the top of tube 7 there is inserted a ring 10 which has the function of preventing the crushing of the tube.

Through this ring 10 there is introduced into the top of spring 9 the bottom end of an intermediate rigid rod 11, also in this case secured by means of a hose clip 18. The top end of rod 11, illustrated in fig.4, is introduced into a second hollow cylindrical rubber spring 13 which in the illustrated example is 200 mm high and has a wall 9,5 mm thick so as to have a greater flexibility with respect to the lower spring 9.

Into the top of spring 13 there is introduced the bottom end of an upper rigid rod 14, and also in this case the securing of the two rods 11 and 14 into spring 13 is achieved by means of hose clips 18. Moreover, same as in the lower portion of the device, also here there is provided a protective tube 12 of rubber and steel which has a wall 4 mm thick and extends in height for 800 mm completely covering spring 13 and the two rods 11 and 14 connected thereto.

Since tube 12 is much smaller in diameter than tube 7 it does not require an anti-crushing ring, yet it still has some mm of play with respect to the elements enclosed therein.

After the group of springs 9 and 13 with rods 11 and 14 has been assembled and covered by tubes 7 and 12, on this supporting structure there is slipped the bag 17 of foam rubber (density 30%) whose inner profile is illustrated in the semisectional view of fig.5.

In particular, bag 17 has a central cavity extending for 100 mm with a diameter of 200 mm to completely cover the area of connection to the base, so as to abut on the side of the conical base without interruption of the padding. The cavity of bag 17 then narrows to a diameter of 110 mm for a height of 500 mm, said diameter corresponding to the outer diameter of the lower tube 7, and finally to a diameter of 50 mm for a height of 850 mm, said diameter corresponding to the

- 5 -

outer diameter of the upper tube 12.

Once bag 17 has been placed on the supporting structure, its locking is achieved through a retaining disk 15 tightened by means of a retaining knob 16 provided with a threaded pin which is screwed into a seat formed at the top of the upper rod 14 (fig.4). Finally, the bag is covered by an external protective cover 19 which may also cover knob 16 (fig.1) or leave it accessible.

From the above description of the present device it is clear how it achieves all the intended objects. In fact the presence of the two springs 9 and 13 provides the necessary flexibility to the supporting structure, which responds elastically to the athlete's blows without risks of device fall and with the possibility of changing the response by simply changing the above-mentioned springs.

Furthermore the dismounting and storing of the device are quite simple, in fact it is sufficient to unscrew knob 16 and raise bag 17 until access is gained to bolt 5 to be removed and all the upper portion of the device is separated from the ballasted base. At this point the light portion can be easily stored in various ways, while the conical bases 3 can be stacked one on top of the other, upon removal of the padding 2 which being made of a soft material can be folded for storage.

It is clear that the above-described and illustrated embodiment of the device according to the invention is just an example susceptible of various modifications. In particular, the exact shape and size of the elements making up the supporting structure may be changed according to specific needs, for example by changing the height and/or thickness of springs 9 and 13 which may also be of other kind, such as metal coil springs. Similarly, the securing means for assembling the various elements may be replaced with other mechanically equivalent means, for example replacing clips 18 with metallic threaded inserts enclosed in the rubber of the springs for the connection to the rods and to the base stud.

- 6 -

CLAIMS

1. Kick boxe training bag including a foam rubber padding (17) slipped onto a supporting structure provided with a hollow base (3) which can be filled with ballast, characterized in that said supporting structure includes at least two elastically flexible members (9, 13) connected by at least a rigid member (11).
2. Kick boxe training bag according to claim 1, characterized in that the upper elastic member (13) has a flexibility greater than the lower elastic member (9).
3. Kick boxe training bag according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said elastic members (9, 13) are hollow cylindrical rubber springs.
4. Kick boxe training bag according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterized in that the lower elastic member (9) is 500 mm high, the rigid connecting member (11) is 300 mm high and the upper elastic member (13) is 200 mm high.
5. Kick boxe training bag according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterized in that it further includes protective tubes (7, 12) of rubber and steel arranged between the supporting structure and the foam rubber padding (17), said protective tubes (7, 12) being sized so as to have no play with respect to said padding (17) and a significant play with respect to the supporting structure.
6. Kick boxe training bag according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterized in that the locking of the padding (17) onto the supporting structure is achieved through of a top retaining disk (15) tightened by means of a retaining knob (16) provided with a threaded pin which is screwed into a seat formed at the top of an upper rigid member (14) connected to the upper flexible member (13).
7. Kick boxe training bag according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterized in that the securing between the rigid members (11, 14) and the flexible members (9, 13) is achieved by means of end pins of the rigid members which are introduced into cavities of the flexible members and locked therein by external hose clips (18).
8. Kick boxe training bag according to one or more of the preceding

- 7 -

claims, characterized in that it includes means for removably connecting the hollow base (3) to the structure supporting the foam rubber padding (17).

9. Kick boxe training bag according to claim 8, characterized in that said connecting means consist of a threaded stud (8) shaped as an inverted T on which there is slipped a small cylinder (6) provided with a central vertical hole for the passage of said stud (8) and with a horizontal hole for the passage of a bolt (5), said small cylinder (6) with the stud (8) therein being slipped onto the top of the hollow base (3) where there is formed a horizontal hole corresponding to the hole in the small cylinder (6).

10. Kick boxe training bag according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterized in that the hollow base (3) has a conical shape.

11. Kick boxe training bag according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterized in that the hollow base (3) is covered by a padding (2).

12. Kick boxe training bag according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterized in that the hollow base (3) has on its bottom side a concave profile mating with the top profile of the base itself.

13. Kick boxe training bag according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterized in that the hollow base (3) is closed by a top plug (4) provided with an external thread and a polygonal socket for driving it into a corresponding threaded bore.

14. Kick boxe training bag according to one or more of the preceding claims, characterized in that the hollow base (3) is provided with lateral recesses which make it easier to grab it for raising.

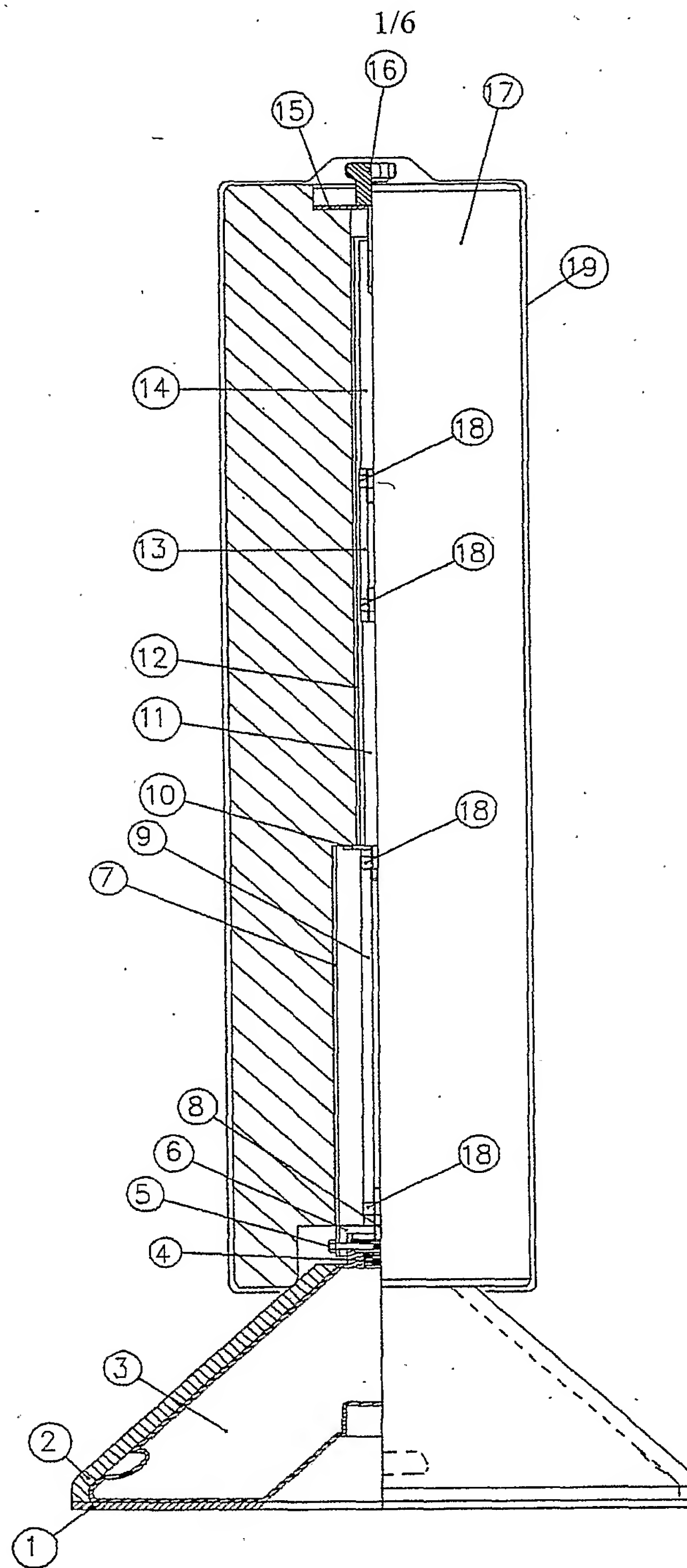


Fig. 1

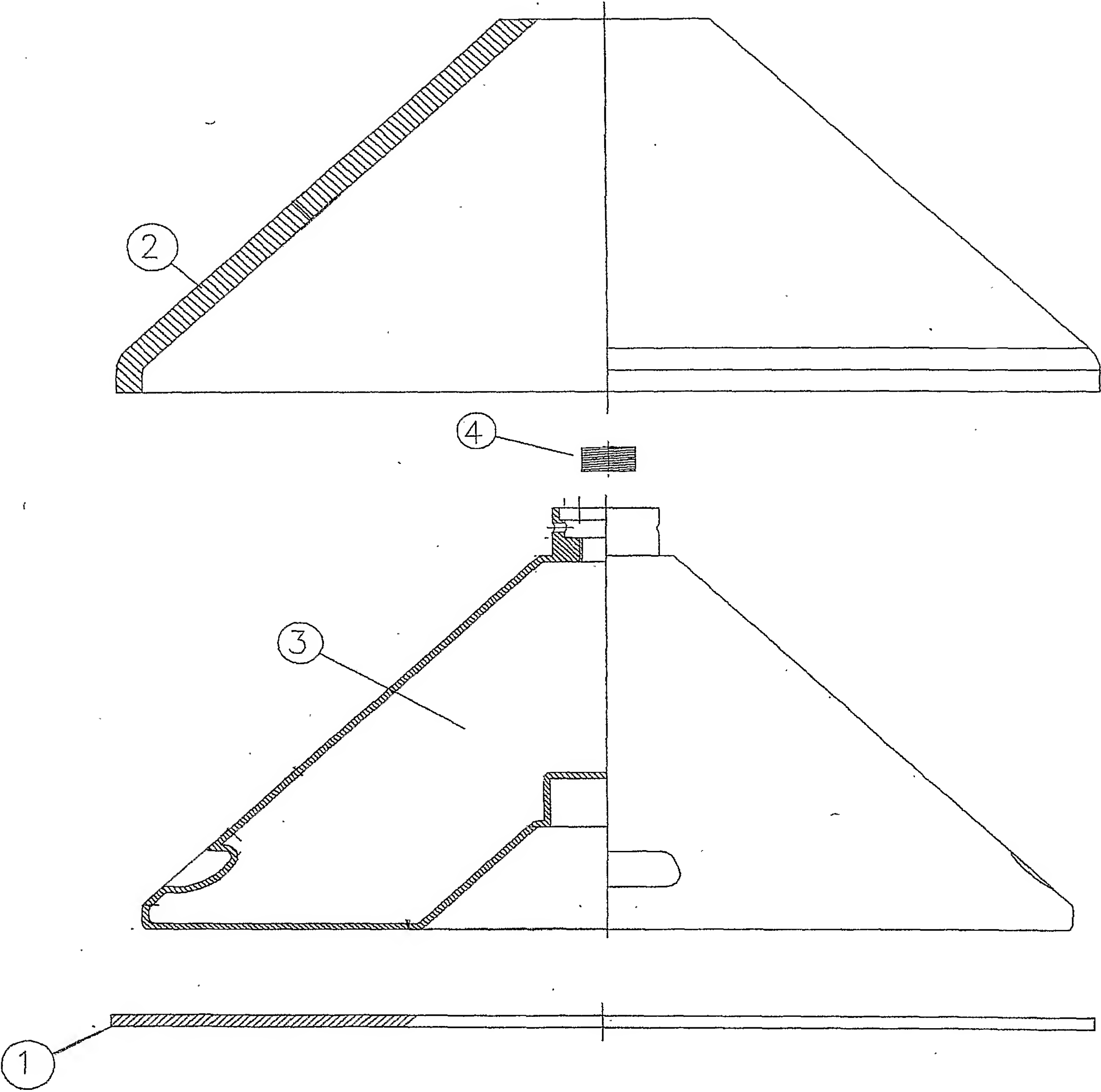
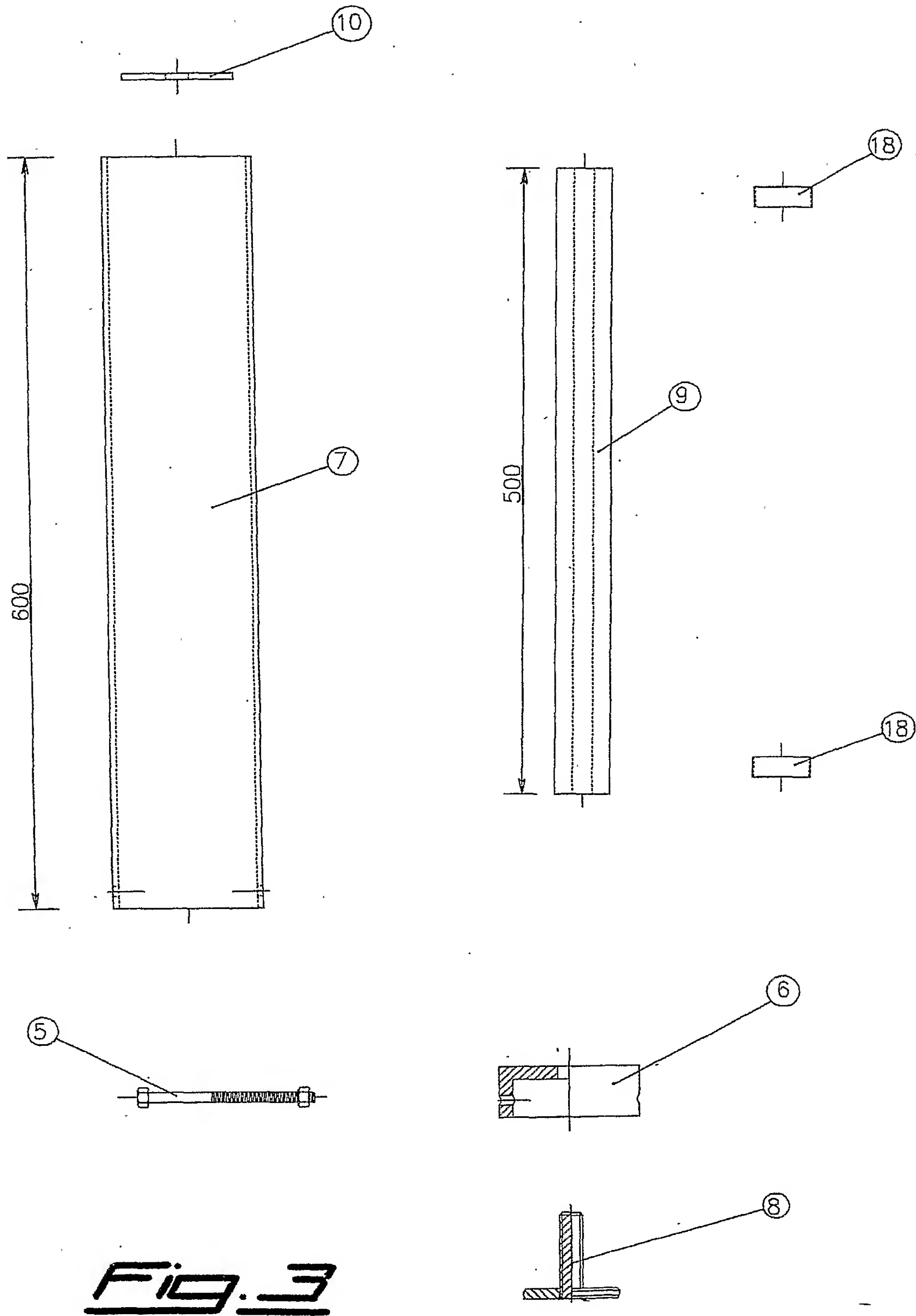
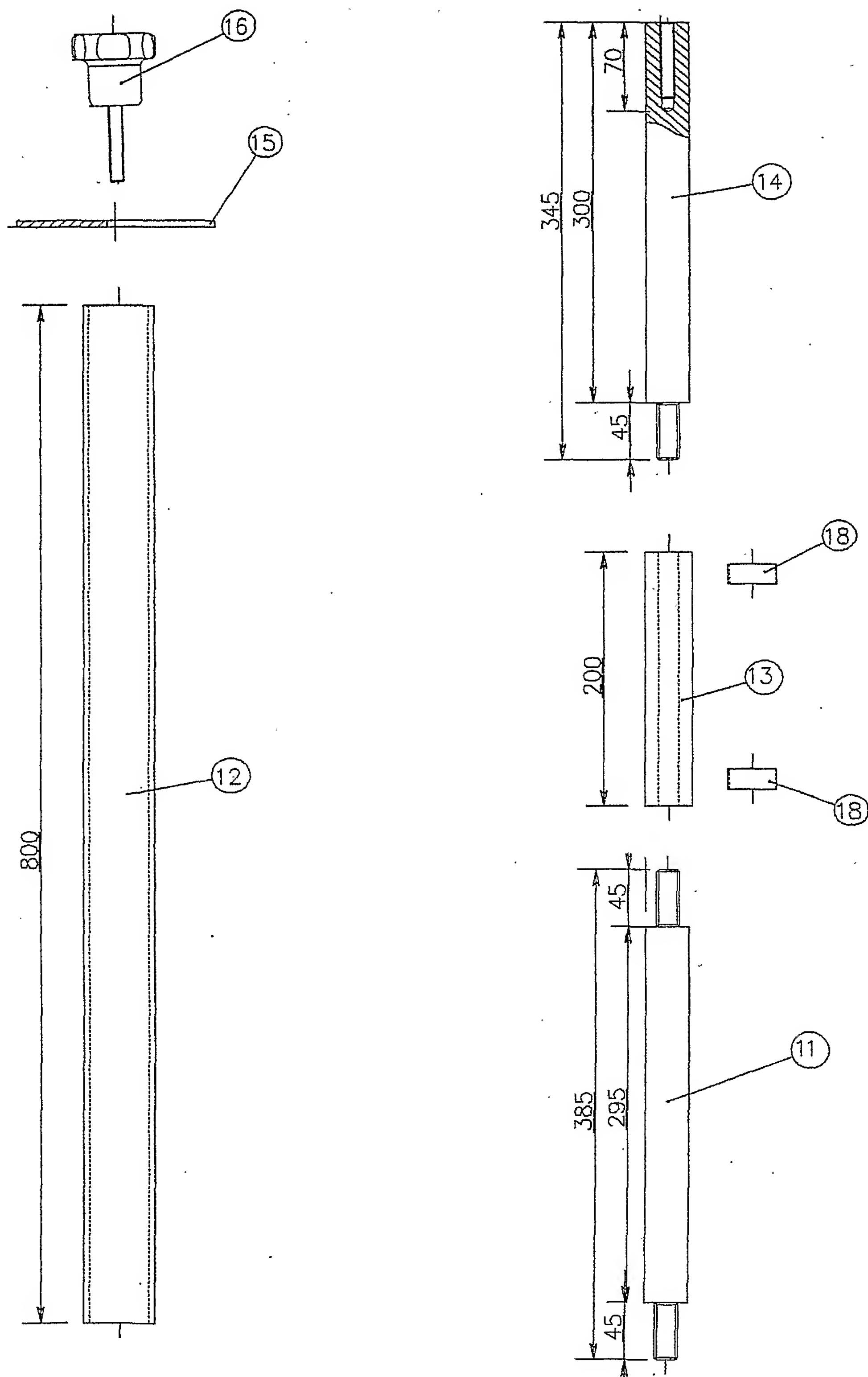


Fig. 2



**Fig. 4**

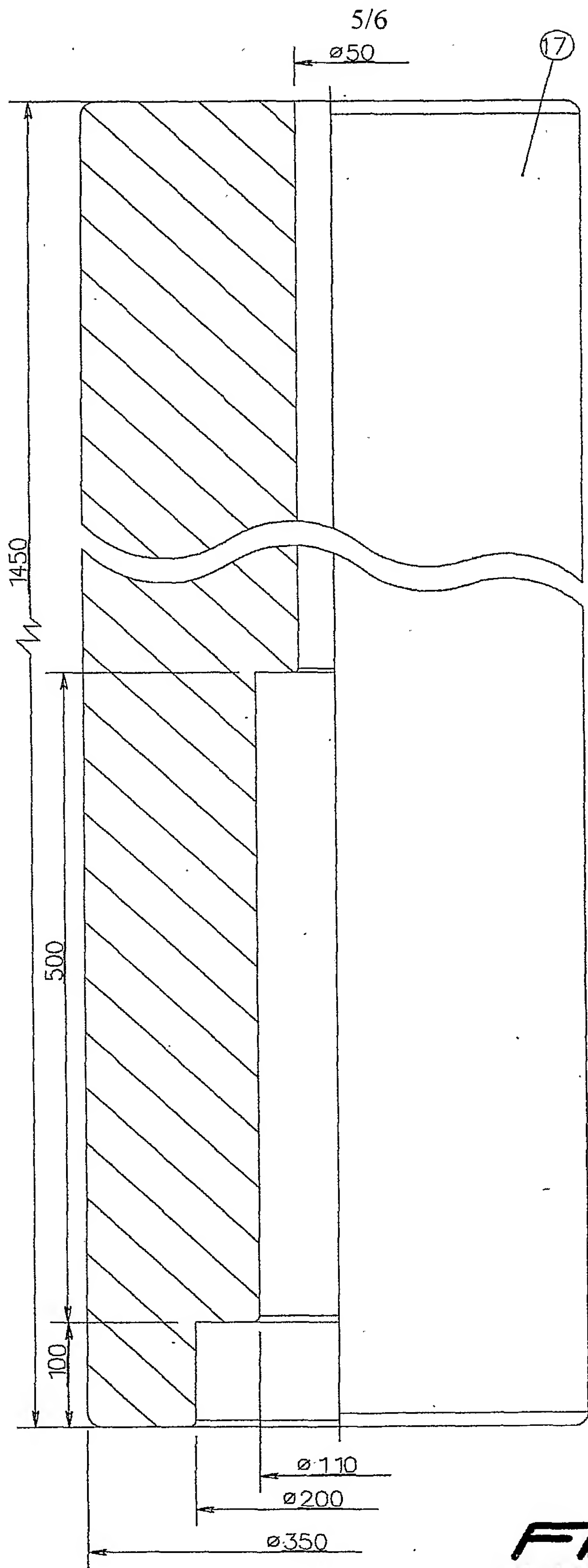


Fig. 5

6/6

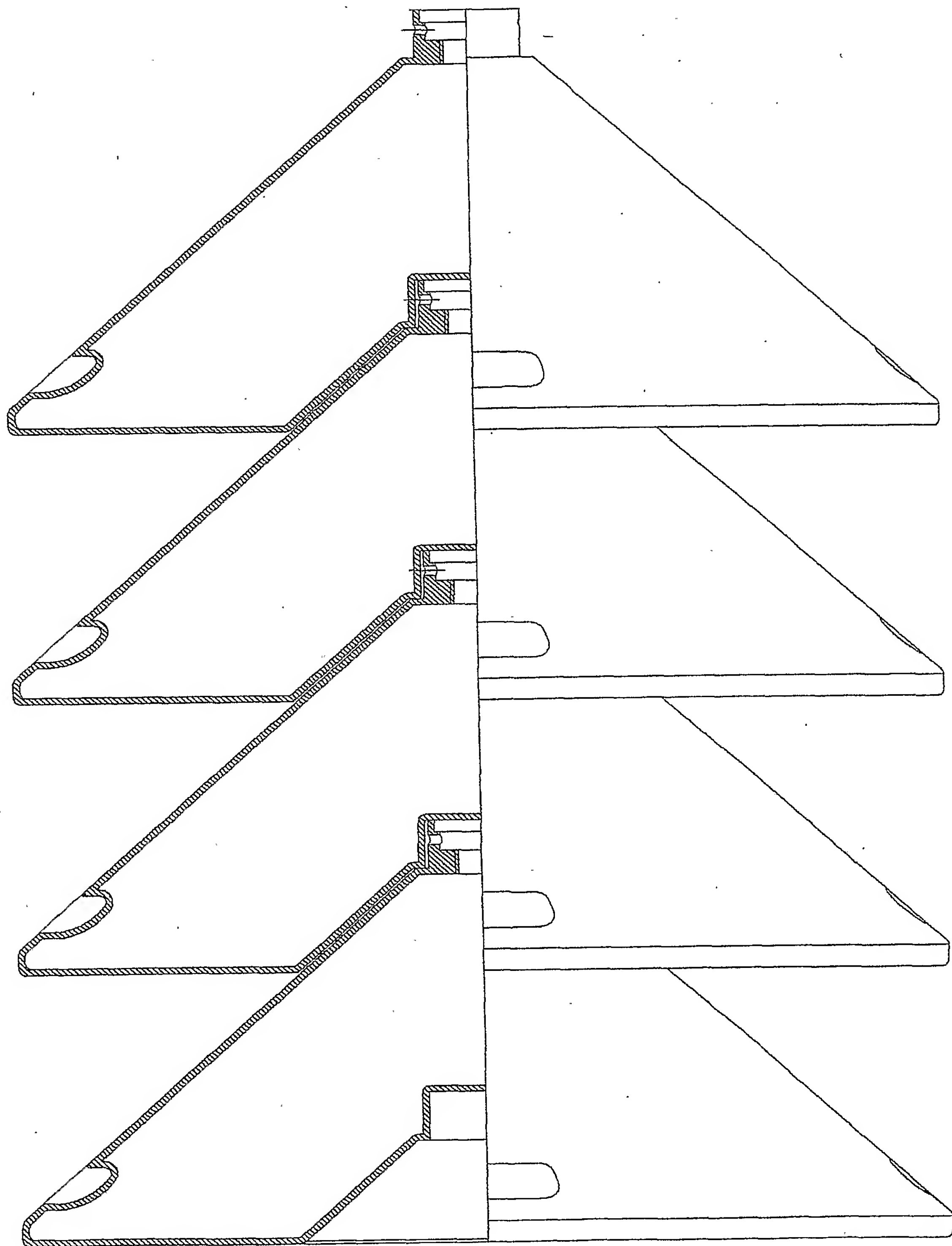


Fig. 6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/IT 01/00293

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A63B69/20

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 A63B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 941 801 A (D'ALTO) 24 August 1999 (1999-08-24)	1-4, 8
Y	the whole document	5, 6, 10, 14
A	---	9
Y	US 2 085 161 A (KRAUS) 29 June 1937 (1937-06-29)	5
A	the whole document	1, 2
Y	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1998, no. 05, 30 April 1998 (1998-04-30) & JP 10 024138 A (FUJIMURA KIIYOKA), 27 January 1998 (1998-01-27) abstract	6

	-/--	



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

4 April 2002

Date of mailing of the international search report

16/04/2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Williams, M

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/IT 01/00293

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	WO 91 01779 A (SPEED BALL CORP) 21 February 1991 (1991-02-21) page 3, line 17 - line 32; figures 1,2 ----	10,14
A	EP 1 095 674 A (CHEN) 2 May 2001 (2001-05-02) column 1, line 28 -column 3, line 12; figures 1-7 ----	1,8-10, 13
A	GB 318 719 A (WILLIAM SYKES LTD) 12 September 1929 (1929-09-12) page 3, line 50 -page 4, line 82; figures 1,2,8 ----	10,12
A	AU 631 773 B (MACKAY) 3 December 1992 (1992-12-03) ----	
A	US 5 330 403 A (KUO) 19 July 1994 (1994-07-19) -----	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/IT 01/00293

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5941801	A	24-08-1999	US 5437590 A	01-08-1995
US 2085161	A	29-06-1937	NONE	
JP 10024138	A	27-01-1998	NONE	
WO 9101779	A	21-02-1991	ES 2015201 A6 AU 6296990 A WO 9101779 A1	01-08-1990 11-03-1991 21-02-1991
EP 1095674	A	02-05-2001	US 6251051 B1 EP 1095674 A2	26-06-2001 02-05-2001
GB 318719	A	12-09-1929	NONE	
AU 631773	B	03-12-1992	AU 2128092 A AU 8960491 A	05-11-1992 18-06-1992
US 5330403	A	19-07-1994	GB 2282762 A ,B	19-04-1995